

BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

MAXINE JOHNSON

V

No. 16-0290

THE PEOPLES GAS LIGHT AND COKE
COMPANY

Fraudulent over-inflated
billing, illegal
disconnections, unjustified
deposits, fees, charges,
discriminatory unfair and
deceptive business practices
etc., in Chicago, Illinois.

Chicago, Illinois
September 7, 2016

Met pursuant to notice at 10:00 a.m.

BEFORE :

MR. TERRANCE HILLIARD, Administrative Law Judge.

1 APPEARANCES:

2

MS. MAXINE JOHNSON
3 3947 West Polk Street
Apartment 1
4 Chicago, Illinois 60624
appeared pro se;

5

6 MR. MICHAEL SYNOWIECKI
20 South Clark Street
7 Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60602

8 -and-

MR. KOBY BAILEY
9 100 East Randolph
Chicago, Illinois 60601

10 appeared for Respondent.

11

ALSO PRESENT:

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MS. VALERIE ENGLAND
13 Representative from The Peoples
Gas Light and Coke Company

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SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by
20 Teresann B. Giorgi, CSR
084-000977

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1		<u>I</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>X</u>			
2							Re-	Re-	By
3	<u>Witnesses:</u>	<u>Dir.</u>	<u>Crx.</u>	<u>dir.</u>	<u>crx.</u>		<u>dir.</u>	<u>crx.</u>	<u>Examiner</u>
4	NONE								
5									
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8									
9		<u>E</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>S</u>
10	<u>APPLICANT'S</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>IDENTIFICATION</u>					<u>IN</u>	<u>EVIDENCE</u>
11	NONE								
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1 JUDGE HILLIARD: On behalf of the Illinois
2 Commerce Commission, I call Docket 16-290,
3 Maxine Johnson versus Peoples Gas Light and
4 Coke Company.

5 Can the parties identify themselves
6 for the record, please.

7 Ms. Johnson, can you give us a name
8 and an address.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Maxine Johnson, 3947 West Polk
10 Street, Apartment 1, Chicago, Illinois 60624.

11 MR. SYNOWIECKI: Michael Synowiecki on behalf of
12 Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company.

13 JUDGE HILLIARD: Give me the name of your firm
14 and an address, sir.

15 MR. SYNOWIECKI: Daley and Georges, Ltd.,
16 20 South Clark Street, Suite 400.

17 JUDGE HILLIARD: Okay. I issued a ruling
18 recently in regard to Ms. Johnson's request to
19 produce witnesses for the hearing.

20 Did you get a copy of that, ma'am?

21 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

22 JUDGE HILLIARD: Okay.

1 MS. JOHNSON: August 22nd.

2 JUDGE HILLIARD: Yeah, something like that.

3 So, are there any other outstanding
4 discovery issues or should we just set a hearing
5 date when you can come in and present your case?

6 MS. JOHNSON: What did you say now?

7 JUDGE HILLIARD: We're going to set a hearing
8 date in your case. If there aren't any other issues
9 we need to take care of, we can just agree on a date
10 when you can come in and have a hearing.

11 MS. JOHNSON: You ordered me to rewrite the
12 portion of the complaint. I never did hear a
13 response so I reissued that rewrite.

14 JUDGE HILLIARD: I don't think I ordered you to
15 rewrite the complaint, ma'am.

16 The issue that I know about is that
17 you filed a witness list and there were people on it
18 that the Company didn't feel were connected with the
19 case and I issued a ruling and I said that they have
20 to produce people that can address the issues that
21 you raised in your complaint, but the people that
22 aren't connected, like people from ComEd --

1 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah, prior to that you told me,
2 which was the last meeting July 12th, and you asked
3 me about when I had sent it out and I told you that
4 day. I never heard anything back. So, I reissued
5 it when you told me --

6 JUDGE HILLIARD: Okay. Well, that's the same
7 complaint.

8 MS. JOHNSON: You told me to rewrite that
9 portion of the complaint.

10 JUDGE HILLIARD: All right.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Which is what I did.

12 So, I'm still waiting for a response
13 from it because you told me I would have to rewrite
14 that section and I rewrote it. And as I said I
15 didn't get it back, the formal complaint form, I
16 didn't hear back, so, I resent it.

17 JUDGE HILLIARD: You sent it to the Clerk.

18 MS. JOHNSON: No, I sent it back to -- like you
19 told me to redo, like, the part before, which I have
20 to first send it to the Consumer Division first --

21 JUDGE HILLIARD: No, you don't have to --

22 MS. JOHNSON: -- and then the complaint.

1 JUDGE HILLIARD: No, you don't have to --

2 MS. JOHNSON: That's what you told me to do.

3 JUDGE HILLIARD: No, I did not, ma'am. I never

4 said anything about the Consumer Division.

5 MS. JOHNSON: No, you asked me when did I send

6 it? And I said the day we were speaking, which was

7 July 12th -- it was the 11th or the 12th. And then

8 I said -- because you asked me, you said, Did you

9 hear anything back yet? I said, Not yet.

10 And I never did hear anything back,

11 so, I resent it again.

12 JUDGE HILLIARD: You resent what to whom?

13 MS. JOHNSON: Because it was about the ComEd

14 portion of the complaint that I initially wrote.

15 JUDGE HILLIARD: You resent what to whom?

16 MS. JOHNSON: The informal complaint to the

17 Consumer Division that then referred it to the Clerk

18 office for the formal complaint. Because you told

19 me to have it rewritten.

20 JUDGE HILLIARD: Perhaps there was a

21 misunderstanding --

22 MS. JOHNSON: That was at our last meeting,

1 which was July 12th.

2 JUDGE HILLIARD: When was our last meeting?

3 MS. JOHNSON: July 12th.

4 JUDGE HILLIARD: When do you have a record of

5 our last meeting?

6 MS. JOHNSON: They weren't here. It was Padron.

7 JUDGE HILLIARD: They should have records about

8 the case.

9 MR. BAILEY: July 12th.

10 JUDGE HILLIARD: All right. You're passed the

11 informal complaint stage. You don't need to send

12 them. Anything you file, you file with the Clerk of

13 the Commission.

14 MS. JOHNSON: I know, but they have to have it

15 before which is what I issued. And you asked me did

16 I process it and I said, No, they didn't send me the

17 form back yet.

18 JUDGE HILLIARD: You have a formal complaint on

19 file that supercedes any informal complaint. You

20 don't need to do anything with the --

21 MS. JOHNSON: No, but you told me to redo the --

22 separate ComEd and Peoples Gas.

1 JUDGE HILLIARD: And did you do that because I
2 don't have --

3 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah, that's what I'm saying. And
4 you asked me about the date and I said I submitted
5 it but I haven't heard anything back. I never heard
6 anything back, so, then I reissued it again.

7 JUDGE HILLIARD: When?

8 MS. JOHNSON: Today. But I did it prior that
9 meeting day that you asked me about.

10 JUDGE HILLIARD: In the new complaint -- do you
11 have a copy of it with you?

12 MS. JOHNSON: Do I have a copy of what?

13 JUDGE HILLIARD: What you reissued today.

14 MS. JOHNSON: It was the informal portion, which
15 they send it -- they receive it and then send me a
16 number and then it goes to --

17 JUDGE HILLIARD: All right. You don't need to
18 do anything with the informal complaint. Anything
19 you've done about informal complaints that's done.
20 We're dealing with this formal complaint, which --
21 you haven't done a new formal complaint, have you?

22 MS. JOHNSON: No, because they didn't send me

1 the form --

2 JUDGE HILLIARD: Okay.

3 MS. JOHNSON: -- which is what their process

4 would have done.

5 JUDGE HILLIARD: All right.

6 MS. JOHNSON: But that's what you told me to do.

7 JUDGE HILLIARD: But you've got one on file.

8 MS. JOHNSON: I know. But you told me --

9 JUDGE HILLIARD: All right. So, why don't we

10 deal with this.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Fine. But I was just

12 re-cooping (sic) because that's what you told me to

13 do.

14 JUDGE HILLIARD: All right. Are you ready to go

15 to hearing on this?

16 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

17 JUDGE HILLIARD: Now, we have to agree on a date

18 that they want to bring in their witness. If you

19 have any witnesses or documents that you want to

20 bring, you need to --

21 MS. JOHNSON: I did. You denied it.

22 JUDGE HILLIARD: No. You can bring in any

1 witnesses that you want that are under your control.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

3 JUDGE HILLIARD: You can't bring in ComEd people
4 and you can't bring in Commission staff that don't
5 have any connection with your case or at least any
6 direct connection with your formal complaint.

7 MS. JOHNSON: It is direct connection, but you
8 did deny it. And also I had Peoples Gas -- Peoples
9 witnesses too, but you denied --

10 JUDGE HILLIARD: No, I didn't deny the Peoples
11 Gas. I told you that they had to bring in the
12 witnesses that you -- about the matters that you
13 indicated concern Peoples Gas and your gas account
14 and that's why this young lady --

15 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. So, clarify -- that's only
16 person of several that I mentioned.

17 JUDGE HILLIARD: Mr. Padron identified her as
18 being the person that has information regarding each
19 one of the allegations --

20 MS. JOHNSON: But that's Mr. Padron, he's not --
21 it was my witness list request, which was of
22 people on the list.

1 JUDGE HILLIARD: They have indicated that that
2 witness is responsive to your request. And I have
3 told them that they need to produce every witness
4 that -- to produce a witness that can answer
5 questions about all the areas that you're concerned
6 about.

7 MS. JOHNSON: So, that's the major point. On my
8 witness list from that all people that can vouch for
9 the point I was making --

10 JUDGE HILLIARD: Do you have any other
11 witnesses, people like friends and neighbors that
12 have information relative to your complaint?

13 The Company is responsible for
14 bringing in the witnesses that can answer your
15 inquiries.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. And that's what you already
17 denied because I submitted a witness list with those
18 peoples' name on it, but you didn't allow it.

19 JUDGE HILLIARD: All right. You didn't name
20 people. You named jobs --

21 MS. JOHNSON: That's because I don't know the
22 peoples' name.

1 JUDGE HILLIARD: Can I --

2 MS. JOHNSON: I know the function and that
3 function refers to the witness and to -- related to
4 the case.

5 JUDGE HILLIARD: Okay. Now, only one of us can
6 talk at a time so the lady can take it down. So,
7 when I'm talking --

8 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, I was.

9 JUDGE HILLIARD: -- I'd like you to stop
10 talking. Okay?

11 And what I indicated to the Company
12 was, in my ruling is that they are responsible for
13 bringing in people who can answer questions about
14 what the Company did in regard to each one of your
15 allegations.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

17 JUDGE HILLIARD: All right. So, that's what's
18 going to happen when we have a hearing.

19 All I'm telling you is that if there's
20 someone else you want to bring in, someone that is a
21 witness for your side of the story --

22 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

1 JUDGE HILLIARD: -- this will be your
2 opportunity.

3 So, when do we want to have a hearing?
4 How about the Company? When are you
5 thinking?

6 MR. SYNOWIECKI: Judge, we're fine with late
7 October, the week of the 24th.

8 JUDGE HILLIARD: How about Wednesday the 26th?
9 Does that work for you?

10 MS. JOHNSON: Now, what's the date?

11 JUDGE HILLIARD: Wednesday, October 26th.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

13 JUDGE HILLIARD: At 10:00 a.m.
14 Does that work for everybody?

15 MR. SYNOWIECKI: Yes, Judge.

16 JUDGE HILLIARD: Does that work for you, ma'am?

17 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

18 Oh, are you saying that Paul Padron is
19 not coming?

20 JUDGE HILLIARD: Right.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Returning?

22 JUDGE HILLIARD: Right. This gentleman is going

1 to be representing the Company.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. So, what's the name or --

3 JUDGE HILLIARD: Why don't you give her your

4 card.

5 MR. SYNOWIECKI: (Tendering.)

6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

7 JUDGE HILLIARD: All right. If you find out

8 that that date doesn't work, then you need to let me

9 know and let them know and then we'll come up with

10 another date. Okay?

11 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

12 JUDGE HILLIARD: We'll be adjourned for today

13 and we'll be back on the 26th of October at

14 10:00 a.m. and we'll have our hearing and then we'll

15 proceed from there. Okay?

16 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Is that when I bring the

17 witnesses?

18 JUDGE HILLIARD: Yes.

19 Thank you.

20 (Whereupon, the matter was

21 continued to October 26th,

22 2016, 10:00 a.m.)